

## FREQUENTLY ASKED IMMUNIZATION QUESTIONS 2003- 2004 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **Why are only 3 doses of DTaP/ DT / Td required for second grade and above when five are required for first grade?**  
A. DTaP/ DTP / DT are licensed for children 6 years of age and younger. Td is used for children 7 years and above. If a child presents for vaccination for the first time at 7 years of age, only three doses of Td are required to bring that child up to date. Because of this, the school can only hold the child responsible for the minimum requirement (3 Td).
2. **When are only 3 doses of Polio vaccine required?**  
A. Three doses of all OPV or all IPV are acceptable if the third dose was given on or after the child's fourth birthday.
3. **When are 4 doses of Polio vaccine required?**  
A. ACIP recommends that when any combination of IPV and OPV are used, then 4 doses regardless of age is required. Also, when a child has received 3 doses of polio vaccine before the age of four a fourth dose is required.
4. **Must the fourth dose of polio vaccine be given on or after the fourth birthday?**  
A. No, according to the Pink Book " If a child receives both types of vaccine, four doses of any combination of IPV or OPV by age 4-6 years of age is considered complete".
5. **If a child has received 4 doses of polio vaccine before the age of 4 is the series complete?**  
A. Yes, If a child has 4 doses of polio vaccine before the age of 4 and the minimum intervals are met (4 weeks between doses) the series is complete and no further doses are required.
6. **What are the minimum intervals for Hepatitis B vaccine?**  
A. The minimum intervals between vaccine doses are:  
Dose 1 and 2 is 4 weeks (28 days)  
Dose 2 and 3 is 8 weeks (56 days)  
Note: (the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose is recommended to be given at least 16 weeks (112 days) after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and **no earlier than 6 months of age**)
7. **What must be included in a child's immunization record?**  
A. The record must contain the child's name, date of birth, and a date for each immunization (month/day/year). Month and year are acceptable if it documents that the vaccine was given at the appropriate age.
8. **What is considered adequate documentation of an immunization history?**  
A. Adequate documentation may be one of the following; a physician's certificate, an immunization record from another school corporation, or a record maintained by the parent. This documentation must include the month and year during which each dose of vaccine was administered.  
(month/day/year are recommended, but by rule 410 IAC 1-1-4, month and year is acceptable)
9. **What is the four-day grace period and when can it be used?**  
A. CDC and ACIP allow a 4-day grace period to be used before a child is excluded from school. If a vaccine was given up to four days before the recommended interval it would be counted as valid. However, this does not change the recommended schedule
10. **What is the minimum age for the MMR to be counted as a valid dose?**  
A. For the MMR to be counted as a valid dose it must have been given on or after the first birthday; thus documentation for this vaccine must contain month/day/year (exception 4 day grace period above)

11. **May a Chiropractor give a medical exemption for vaccination?**  
A. No, only a licensed physician, i.e., M.D., D.O, or Nurse Practitioner can give a medical exemption.
12. **What must a medical exemption contain?**  
A. A physician's certification that a particular immunization is detrimental to the child's health. It must be in writing, and must be verified each year by the school.
13. **What must a religious objection contain?**  
A. A religious objection must be in writing and state that the objection to immunization is based on religious grounds; signed by the child's parent; and delivered to the school. There is no requirement of proof. The school must verify the statement each year.
14. **Is there a philosophical objection allowed in Indiana?**  
A. No. There are only two exemptions allowed, religious and medical.
15. **If a child does not present an immunization record, or is not up to date with his/her immunizations, may they enroll in school?**  
A. Yes, the code states that a child is not permitted to attend school beyond the first day without furnishing a written record, unless:  
1. The school may give a waiver (for a period not to exceed 20 days); or  
2. The local health department, or a physician, determines that the child's immunizations have been delayed due to extreme circumstances, and that the required immunizations will not be completed by the first day of school. The parent must furnish a written statement and a time schedule approved by a physician or health department; or  
3. An exemption is on file.
16. **Is Hepatitis B required for second graders?**  
A. It is expected that all second graders who were first graders in Indiana last year have completed the Hepatitis B series, because it was required for Indiana's children in first grade.
17. **Will the requirement for the Hepatitis B series progress to third grade and beyond?**  
A. No, the requirement for the Hepatitis B series is written differently from the other required vaccines. It states that, "Every child residing in Indiana who enters kindergarten or grade 1 shall be immunized against Hepatitis B." The law is clear as to the residency of the child at the time that child enters kindergarten or grade one. A child coming from another state and enrolling at the second grade or above does not meet the above-statutory requirements.
18. **Will the requirements for the second MMR progress on each year?**  
A. Yes, the way the law is written allows for the requirement of the second MMR to progress.
19. **For which vaccine requirements are laboratory evidence of immunity not acceptable?**  
A. Laboratory evidence is not acceptable for Pertussis. (it is acceptable for all other required antigens)
20. **Do I count as complete those children who have documented laboratory evidence of immunity or a written physician's statement showing history of disease?**  
A. Yes, with the exception of Rubella or Pertussis when a statement of disease is not acceptable.